Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for installation of a pier in a soil matrix comprising, in combination, the steps of:

a) positioning a hollow tube ~~apparatus~~ having a longitudinal dimension and a lateral dimension in a soil matrix, said hollow tube ~~apparatus~~ including a hollow core and an open lower end, said hollow tube core being thereby filled with said soil matrix;

b) removing the soil matrix from the hollow core;

~~b)~~ c) inserting aggregate materials into the hollow tube ~~apparatus in the soil matrix~~ core;

~~c)~~ d) moving the hollow tube ~~apparatus incrementally to~~ an incremental step from the soil matrix and simultaneously imparting lateral forces ~~on the mixture within the hollow tube apparatus~~ and longitudinal forces on the ~~inserted~~ materials discharged from the open end of the hollow tube by such hollow tube movement to thereby form a compacted lift as the hollow tube ~~apparatus~~ is removed in ~~an~~ said incremental step from the soil matrix; and

~~d)~~ e) repeating steps ~~(b) and (c)~~ c) and d).

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 ~~wherein the~~ including placement of a separate mechanical member ~~placed~~ in the hollow tube ~~apparatus extends~~ core extending substantially the longitudinal length of the hollow tube ~~apparatus~~ and moving the mechanical member longitudinally and laterally to effect compaction of material discharged from the hollow tube core.

3. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1 including a step of removing the mechanical member from the hollow tube apparatus.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus is formed with an inwardly beveled lower edge end.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus includes a mechanical portion with a lower peripheral surface defining an angle intermediate the longitudinal and lateral directions.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 including vibrating the hollow tube apparatus.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus is cylindrical.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus includes a uniform diameter hollow core, and ~~a bottom mechanical device with~~ an internal rim at the bottom of the hollow tube ~~apparatus, said bottom mechanical device being~~ beveled inwardly.

9. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus is driven or pushed into the soil matrix.

10. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus includes a mechanical portion with a lower peripheral surface defining an angle intermediate the longitudinal and lateral directions.

11. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1 including raising and lowering the hollow tube apparatus incrementally to impart forces on the soil matrix and aggregate.

12. (Currently Amended) A pier formed by the process of any of the claims ~~1-11~~ 1, 2 and 4-8.